

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended):       An apparatus for controlling a microscope stage assembly comprising:

an upper stage having left and right sides; a slide mount; a rod having a manually operable distal portion; and, a releasable attachment means, wherein said releasable attachment means is arranged to attach said rod to said slide mount and to ~~operatively position said rod~~ interchange said distal portion between ~~[[on]]~~ the left ~~[[or]]~~ and right ~~[[side]]~~ sides of said upper stage, said upper stage ~~supports~~ supporting said slide mount, said upper stage ~~[[is]]~~ being arranged to move in a first direction in response to a translational movement of said rod due to manual operation of the distal portion in said first direction, and said slide mount is arranged to move in a second direction, orthogonal to said first direction, in response to a translational movement of said rod due to manual operation of the distal portion in said second direction.

Claim 3 (previously presented):       The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod comprises a substantially hollow, circular tube with releasable attachment means.

Claim 4 (previously presented):       The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said releasable attachment means is selected from a group consisting of a screws, rivets, magnets, adhesive, hook-and-eyes, and springed detents.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod further comprises a ~~distal portion~~, an intermediate portion and a proximal portion.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The apparatus recited in Claim 5, wherein said proximal portion is attached to said slide mount, said intermediate portion connects said distal and said proximal portion, and said distal portion is disposed in space substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said stage assembly.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod further comprises a gripping means operatively arranged to be detachably secured to said rod.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The apparatus recited in Claim 2 further comprising:  
a joystick, wherein said releasable attachment means is arranged to attach said joystick to said slide mount.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod comprises a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod comprises a plurality of protuberances disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The apparatus recited in Claim 2, wherein said rod comprises a one-piece, pre-formed substantially solid rod with a releasable attachment means.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus recited in Claim 6, wherein said distal portion comprises a substantially solid, circular pole with a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.

Claim 13 (original):                      The apparatus recited in Claim 6, wherein said distal portion comprises a substantially solid, circular pole which tapers at the end.

Claim 14 (original):                      The apparatus recited in Claim 7, wherein said gripping means comprises a substantially hollow tube with a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.

Claim 15 (previously presented):      The apparatus recited in Claim 5, further comprising a gripping means, wherein said gripping means comprises a substantially square, rotatable plate operatively arranged to be detachably secured to said distal portion of said rod.

Claim 16 (currently amended):          A microscope stage movement means comprising:  
an upper stage having left and right sides;  
a slide mount;  
a slide mount guide;  
at least one substantially linear, rounded shaft with an attachment end and a gripping end;  
and,

a releasable attachment means, wherein said releasable attachment means is arranged to releasably attach said shaft to said slide mount guide and to interchange said gripping end between said left and right sides of said upper stage, said slide mount guide attached to said slide mount, said upper stage ~~supports~~ supporting said slide mount, said upper stage ~~[[is]]~~ being arranged to move in a first direction in response to a translational movement of said shaft due to manual operation of the gripping end in said first direction, and said slide mount is arranged to move in a second direction, orthogonal to said first direction, in response to a translational movement of said shaft due to manual operation of the gripping end in said second direction; ~~wherein said shaft is attachable to said slide mount guide to operatively position said shaft on the left or right side of said upper stage.~~

Claim 17 (currently amended): An interchangeable microscope stage movement device for providing X and Y movement of a sample comprising:

an upper stage having left and right sides;

a slide mount, wherein said upper stage supports said slide mount;

a slide mount guide connected to said slide mount; and,

a joystick having a manually operable distal portion and a proximal attachment portion, said proximal attachment portion detachably secured directly to [[a]] the slide mount guide at more than one location of said slide mount guide permitting, wherein said slide mount guide is connected to said slide mount, and said joystick is attachable to said slide mount guide to operatively position said joystick interchange of said distal portion between [[on]] the left [[or]] and right [[side]] sides of said upper stage.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The apparatus recited in Claim 2 further comprising:

a slide mount guide directly connected to said slide mount, where said releasable attachment means is arranged to directly attach said rod to said slide mount guide.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The apparatus recited in Claim 18, wherein said slide mount guide is positioned between said upper stage and said slide mount.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein said slide mount guide is positioned between said upper stage and said slide mount.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The apparatus recited in Claim 17, wherein said slide mount guide is positioned between said upper stage and said slide mount.